

VI2023HRH

VK90AR

VK100ZL



BARG News

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

Inc. #6953T

April 2023 Monthly Newsletter



Next Meeting

11:00am, Saturday 29th April 2023

At the Airport

All Welcome



Contacting us

You can e-mail the secretary

vk3bml@barg.org.au

We're on the web

www.barg.org.au

https://twitter.com/vk3_barg

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VK3BML/>

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Times and dates of nets as per below

Club Nets: VHF NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8 pm on 146.750 MHz - VK3RBA

HF NET: Every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML

6m NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8:30 pm on 53.650Mhz RX / 52.650Mhz TX - FM
with a 91.5 tone - VK3RWU

LINKED REPEATERS: *The local VK3RBA-70cm repeater on Mt Buninyong is part of a network of linked repeaters covering North-Western Victoria.*

Access details for this repeater have recently changed.

*For full details of this linked network and access details
see <https://www.grz.com/lookup/vk3rba>*

You can listen to the system live <http://vk3rba.dyndns.org:441/>

This linked system may be accessed via IRLP node 9503.

New Dates and Times Of BARG General Meetings

As most may be aware Airport Road is now closed till at least the 10th of June and the alternate route being some 5 km more and no lights at night.

It was decided amongst the Committee that we move the general meetings to a daytime meeting on a Saturday at 11am as of the April meeting for at least the next 3 months.

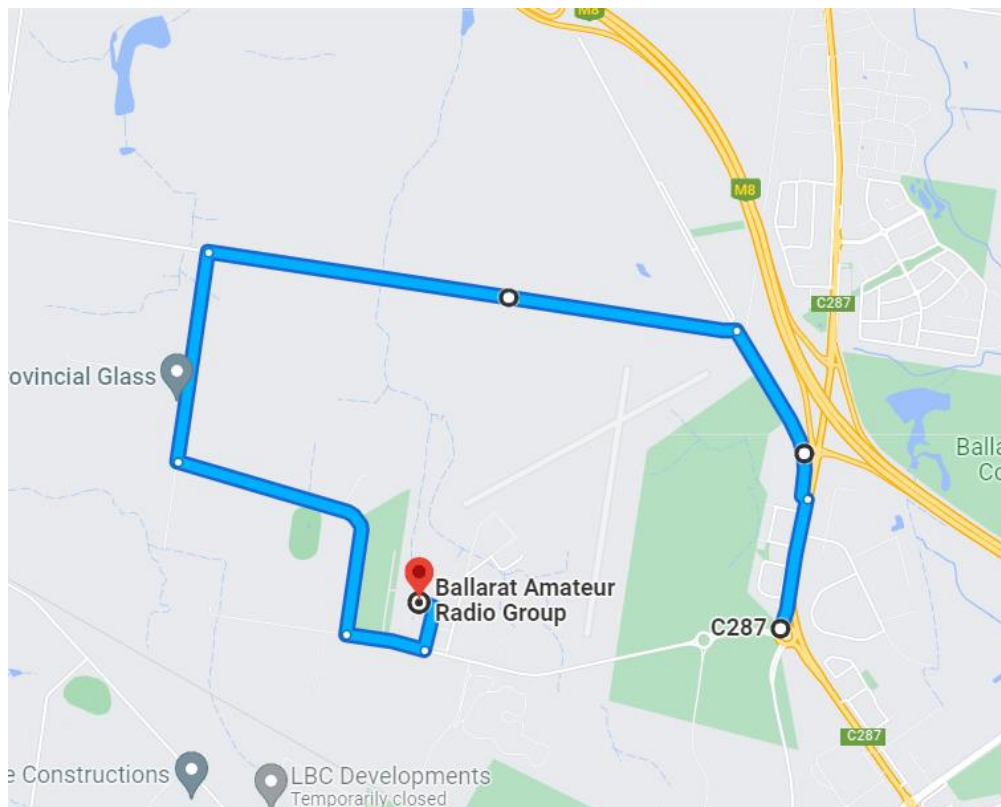
This will be assessed again at the June meeting and if Airport Road has not re-opened the Saturday meetings will continue.

The meeting dates for the next 3 months are as follows:

April 29th at 11 am

May 27th at 11 am

June 24th at 11 am



Construction sessions/days have also been changed to the next three dates:

Saturday May 6th at 1 pm

Saturday June 3rd at 1 pm

Saturday July 1st at 1 pm





President's Report April 2023



This is a quick one for this month. I had hoped to be able to do more but have run out of time.

General Meetings move to all day meeting as of this month. This is due to Airport Road being closed until June this year. The current detour is via McCartneys Road, Highfield Road and Hopetoun Road. For those coming from the south it may be easier although no less distance to use Blind Creek Road, Dowling Road to get to McCartneys Road.

Meeting Dates for the next 3 months:

Saturday April 29th at 11 am

Saturday May 27th at 11 am

Saturday June 24th at 11 am

We will assess the situation at the June meeting as to whether we go back to alternating between Friday Night and Saturday meetings or meetings are to remain on a Saturday.

Construction Night/Meetings, with the last couple of months being very poor attendance with only 2 to 3 people at the April Construction Night it was decided to make Construction nights a daytime meeting on the first Saturday of the month at 1 pm this time is not set in stone and if there is enough suggestion to change the time to later in the day then we can.

Currently this is a trial for the next 3 months. I would encourage anyone who has a project that could be done as a club to come to the meeting in May and let us know about it.

This may also be an opportunity to get some more work done around the clubrooms as well.

Dates for Construction Meetings for the next 3 months:

Saturday May 6th at 1 pm

Saturday June 3rd at 1 pm

Saturday July 1st at 1 pm

Also, hopefully in the newsletter this time is a list of Deceased Estate gear that is still for sale. Please read the disclaimer at the top as it is for members only.

See you all at the general meeting.

73's VK3NRD Ben.



Items for sale



NOTE: This list is for BARG members only do not share it externally. If you are found to be sharing it externally you can be responsible for the delivery of the item sold, whether that is by meeting someone or posting it at your cost.

The prices are just that or nearest reasonable offer. Photos may be available for some items. Inspection can be arranged. When making an offer please quote reference or offer may not be accepted. All offers email Ben vk3nrd@gmail.com.

Reference	Description	Price
VBA002	Kenwood TR-8400 70cm FM	\$80
VBA007	Uniden UBC60XLT Handheld Scanner	\$60
VBA012	Ex Vic Pol 2m Set up for repeaters	\$30
VBA013	Alinco 110 2m FM	\$150
VBA016	Motorola Telemetry Radio - WBAG-25	\$20
VBA018	Yaesu - FP80A Power supply	\$45
VBA019	Wecam 12v PS - 1.5Amp	\$25
VBA020	Transwest 12v PS - 5 Amp	\$25
VBA021	Home Brew 12v PS - 6 Amp	\$25
VBA022	Fujiden Low Pass Filter	\$40
VBA026	Yaesu Power Supply FP-757GX	\$75
VBA027	Alinco ELH-230E 2m Linear Amp	\$160
VBA033	TR Dip Meter	\$40
OLV035	Scanner Saiko SC7000	\$60
OLV036	Kenwood TM-201A 2m FM Transceiver	\$80
OLV037	Kenwood TR-7950 2m FM Transceiver	\$80
BML048	Pearce Simpson Super Lion 27Mhz CB	\$120
OLV050	Homebrew 5 W Dummy load and power output meter	\$20
OLV051	Micronta Dynamic Transistor Checker	\$30
VBA054	Homebrew Power Supply 25 Volt variable 13.8V fixed	\$30
VBA055	DSI 5500 50 - 512 Mhz Frequency Counter	\$50
VBA057	13.8V Power Supply 2A	\$50
VBA058	Mag Base with 70cm Antenna	\$30
VBA060	Mag Base with antenna	\$30
VBA061	Mag Base with antenna	\$30
OLV062	VHF Antenna Tuner Homebrew	\$30
BML065	Realistic DX-200 Communications Receiver (Works tested on AM broadcast band)	\$60

File images, not the real item for sale.



VHF and Above for April 2023

I still get amazed by what happens in amateur radio. The advent of digital communications has certainly been at the forefront of our experiences especially on the 6-metre band. The purists will have a field day saying well it's not CW or SSB so it's not real. Realistically the new modes have allowed communications to take place that just weren't detectable in years gone by. We may have heard the fleeting burst of signals either CW or SSB but not able to complete a qso. The new automated digital modes in particular have enabled this gap to be overcome.

Of particular note to me is the length of time we have been able to continue having communications to all parts of the world. If we were using SSB and CW only the DX season would have been well and truly over by now.

As mentioned in my last report there are quite a few locals getting contacts into lots of places not previously possible without the new digital modes.

In particular I note that Steve VK3ZAZ and VK3OT (R) has not only reached DXCC on 6mx some time ago but has extended his number of countries to 150 which is a remarkable achievement. Some of these recent contacts have been to J79WTA in the Dominican Republic and HHZAA in Haiti. Some of these opportunities have resulted from the use of remote station equipment. There are numerous amateurs all over the world that have remote facilities some of which can be identified by their callsigns ie VK3OT and VK3OTR (R meaning remote) VK3OE and VK3OER. Comments from these stations also indicate the variation in signals being received even though the fixed and remote stations are not that far apart.

I have done a few tests using the club's remote station and notice the same thing between my qth and the clubs qth.



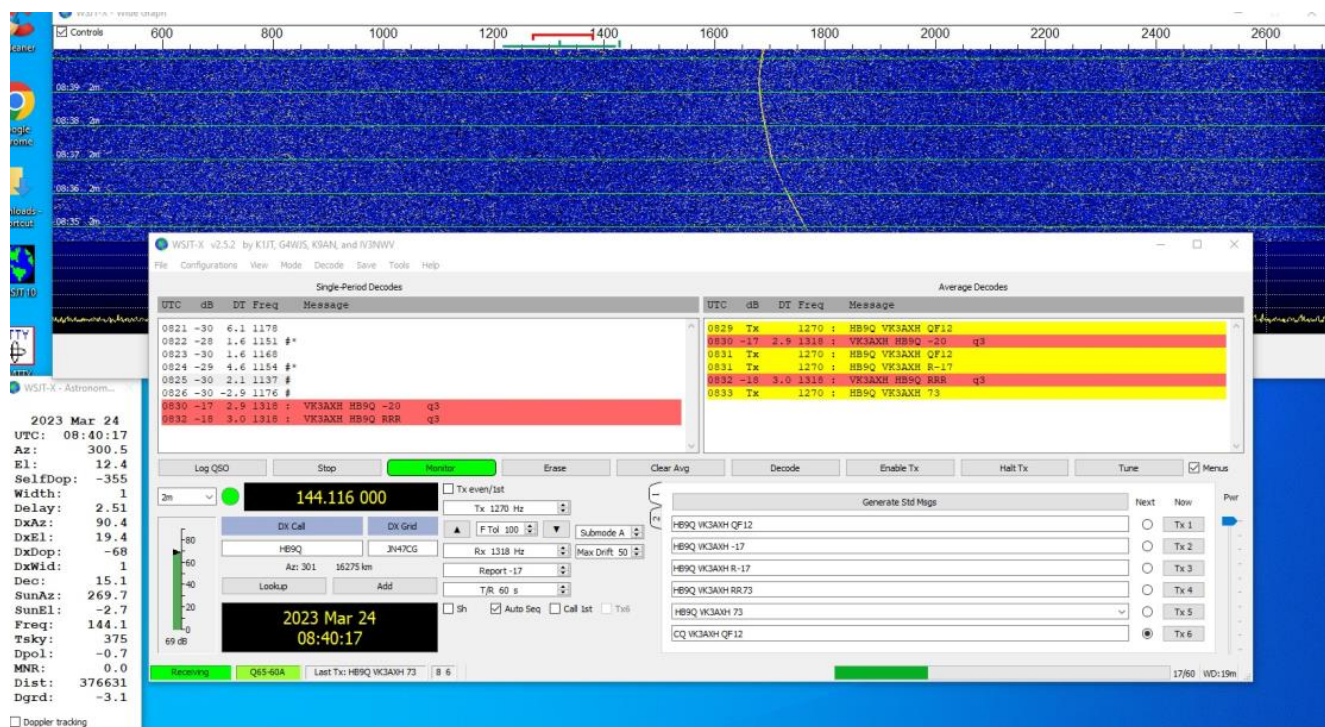
Bob VK3BNC has setup his 2.4m dish endeavouring to see the 1296MHz beacon ON0EME via moonbounce. If it hasn't happened yet it will in the near future.

In the mornings there is still a group on the SSB part of the 2m, 70cm and 23cm bands. 23cm has been quite good into both Hamilton and Caramut. There can be around 6 or 7 that take part most mornings from around 8am which includes VK5TN from Mount Gambier

A few weeks ago, I had 3 x 2mx contacts via EME with RK3FG (Russia), IK2DDR (Italy) and G8RWG (UK) all signals were between -13dB and -21dB. One other notable contact was with HB9Q on 2mx. His station consists of a 15m dish for 2m to 3cm and 4 LFA dual polarity Yagi's for 6m EME. The info below shows what is the minimum needed to have an EME contact with Dan HB9Q.

Image from WSJT of my last qso with Dan HB9Q using this dish on 2mx. If you google Dan's info you can find out what the minimum requirements are to have a qso with him. For instance, 23cm single Yagi and 60 watts is all that's required for a contact. It's not that difficult so give it some thought.

My last 2m qso with HB9Q is below using digital mode from WSJT Q65-60A.



Till next time 73 de VK3AXH.

DON'T FORGET COMING UP

JUNE 24-25 WINTER VHF-UHF Field Day.

0100 UTC Saturday 24 to 0059 UTC Sunday 25
BUT in VK6 add 3 hours onto start and end times.

First Aid Training Group

First Aid Training Group in Ballarat and Regional Victoria

Through our highly interactive First Aid training courses delivered exclusively by experienced Paramedics, Nurses and Healthcare Professionals all with real-life experience, you can be assured you are receiving the best training possible.

1300 705 002
admin@firstaidtraininggroup.com
826 La Trobe Street Ballarat 3350



We offer a wide range of First Aid Courses within Ballarat and the surrounding areas.

Our courses include First Aid Training for individuals who want to help protect their friends and families as well as businesses that want to provide a safer working environment for their employees.

When somebody requires First Aid attention the first few minutes are the most important ones. Within the first few valuable minutes you could save a life. It can take time for an ambulance to arrive, or you may be in a situation where it is hard to get help. But you could be the individual who helps assist these emergency services by helping an injured person with the valuable skills learned through First Aid Training.



We provide on-site Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting (ARFF) training all around the world!

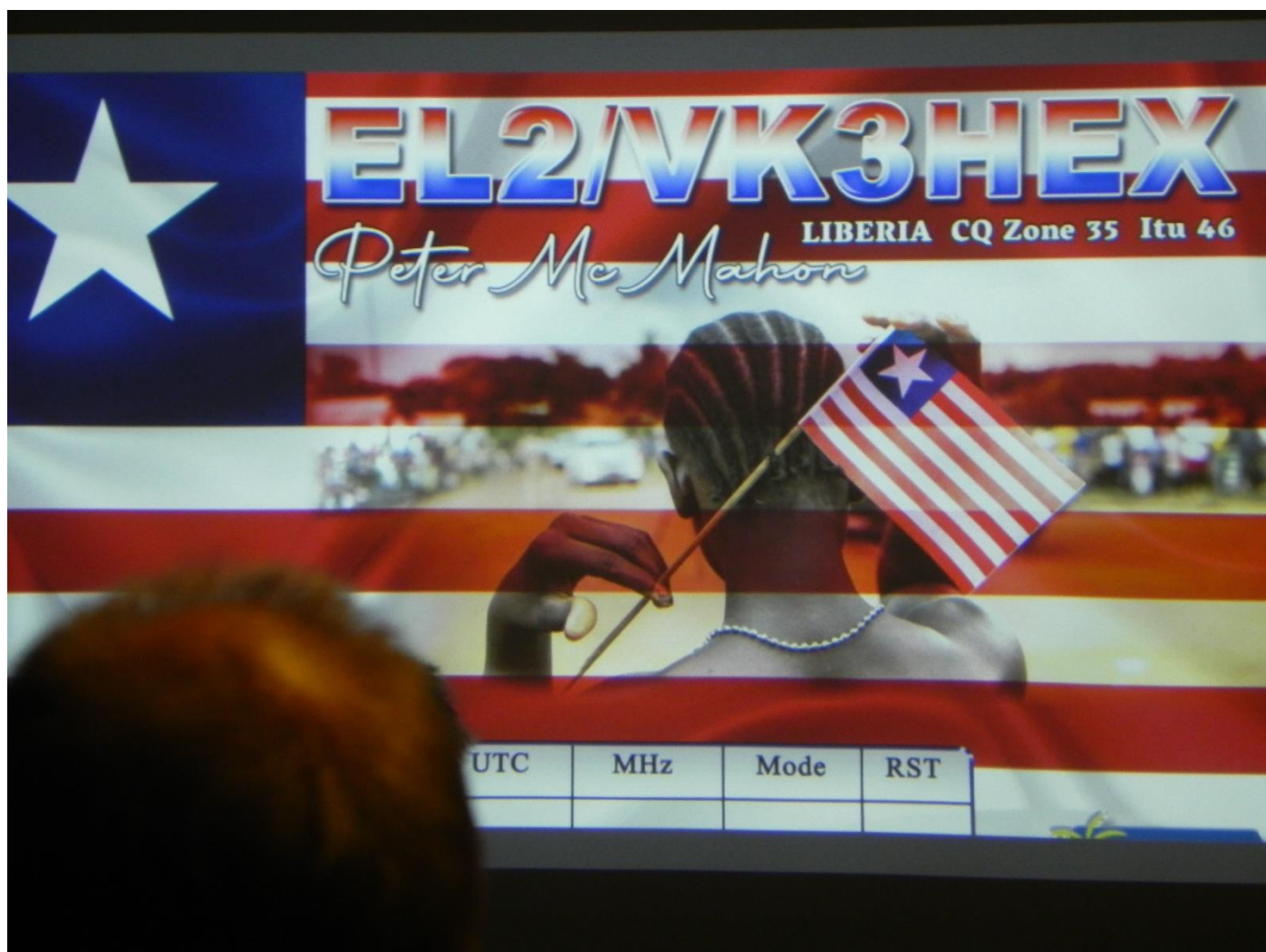
Phone: +61 400 250 653

Email: admin@aviationrescueservices.com

Aviation Rescue Services, PO Box 1619, Bakery Hill 3354, Victoria Australia

Pictures from a BARG General Meeting

A fine presentation by Peter VK3HEX on his visit to Liberia and training the locals in airport fire and rescue procedures, at our February 2023 meeting. Also his experience doing some amateur radio operations with the very helpful local amateurs.



Trees as Transmitters

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/137485830>

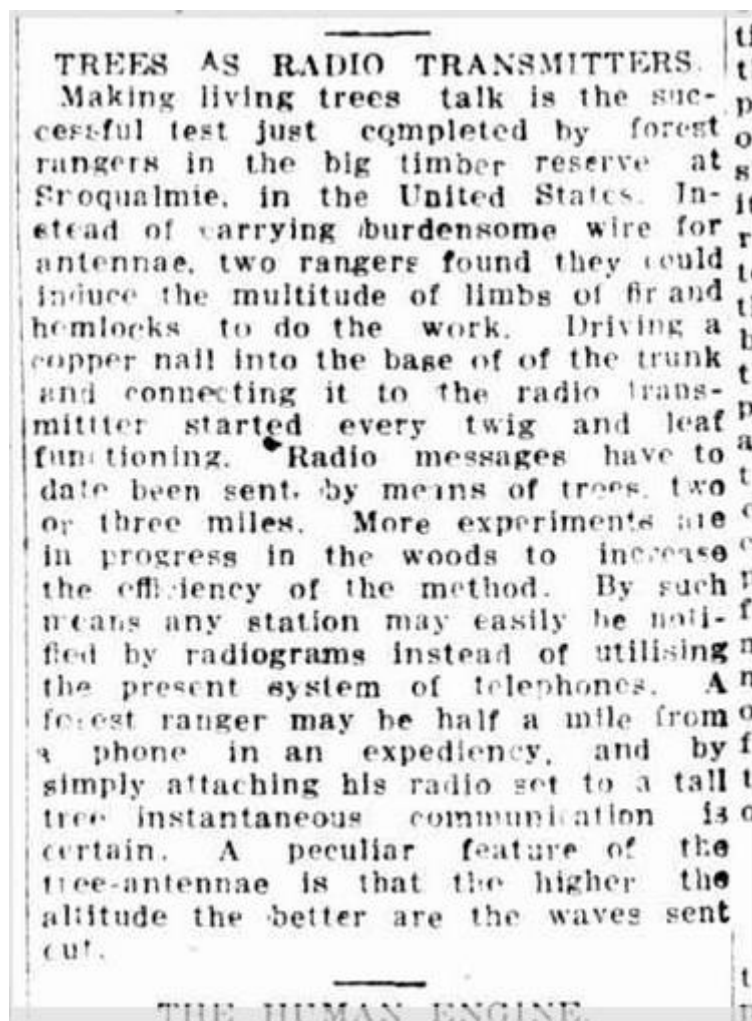
Contributor Colin VK3NCC

Making living trees talk is the successful test just completed by forest rangers in the big timber reserve at Sroqualmie, in the United States. Instead of carrying burdensome wire for antennae, two rangers found they could induce the multitude of limbs of fir and hemlocks to do the work.

Driving a copper nail into the base of the trunk and connecting it to the radio transmitter started every twig and leaf functioning. "Radio messages have to date been sent by means of trees two or three miles.

More experiments are in progress in the woods to increase the efficiency of the method. By such means any station may easily be notified by radiograms instead of utilising the present system of telephones.

A forest ranger may be half a mile from a phone in an expediency, and by simply attaching his radio set to a tall tree instantaneous communication is certain. A peculiar feature of the tree-antennae is that the higher the altitude the better are the waves sent out.



Special Event Callsigns Issued

Date : 13 / 04 / 2023
Author : Lee Moyle - VK3GK

Special Event Callsign VI2023HRH

In celebration of the coronation of
His Majesty King Charles III on the 6th
of May 2023

Event duration May 1st until May 31st
2023

VK90AR for Amateur Radio Magazine

In October 2023, this year, the WIA
will be celebrating 90 years of continuous
publishing of Amateur Radio Magazine,
the official journal of the Wireless Institute of Australia.

The WIA will be running a commemoration activity celebrating this milestone from 1st
March until Dec 31st 2023

VK100ZL for First VK/ZL AR Contact

On April 26th this year, it will be 100 years since the first amateur radio contact
between New Zealand and Australia was made, between Frank Bell of Shag Valley
Station, Waihemo in Otago and Charles Maclurcan, 2CM in Sydney.

This is a significant event in Amateur radio in which NZART (New Zealand)
and WIA will be jointly celebrating.

WIA will be running a commemoration activity contest from April 1st until Dec
31st, 2023.

To book an operational timeslot for either of the Special Event Callsigns, please
use the WIA website online booking portal, nominating your WIA affiliated club to
register.

See <https://www.wia.org.au/members/onlinebook/about/>

There will be a QRZ page and QSL information published shortly.



DON'T FORGET

10:00AM EVERY THURSDAY MORNING

BARG COFFEE CLUB

ALL WELCOME



**Food Seduction on Doveton
524 Doveton Street North**

ALSO

FREQUENT FRIDAY NIGHT PUB DINNERS

**KEEP WATCH ON BARG CHATTER EMAIL
FOR THE NEXT OUTING**



Saturday Luncheon Farmer's Arms Beeac

A very well attended lunch was convened on Saturday 22nd April at the Farmer's Arms on recommendation of a member.

A fine fare of entrées, mains and desserts with drinks was presented and appreciated by all 18 of the BARG attendees.

Well worth the extra distance travelled.

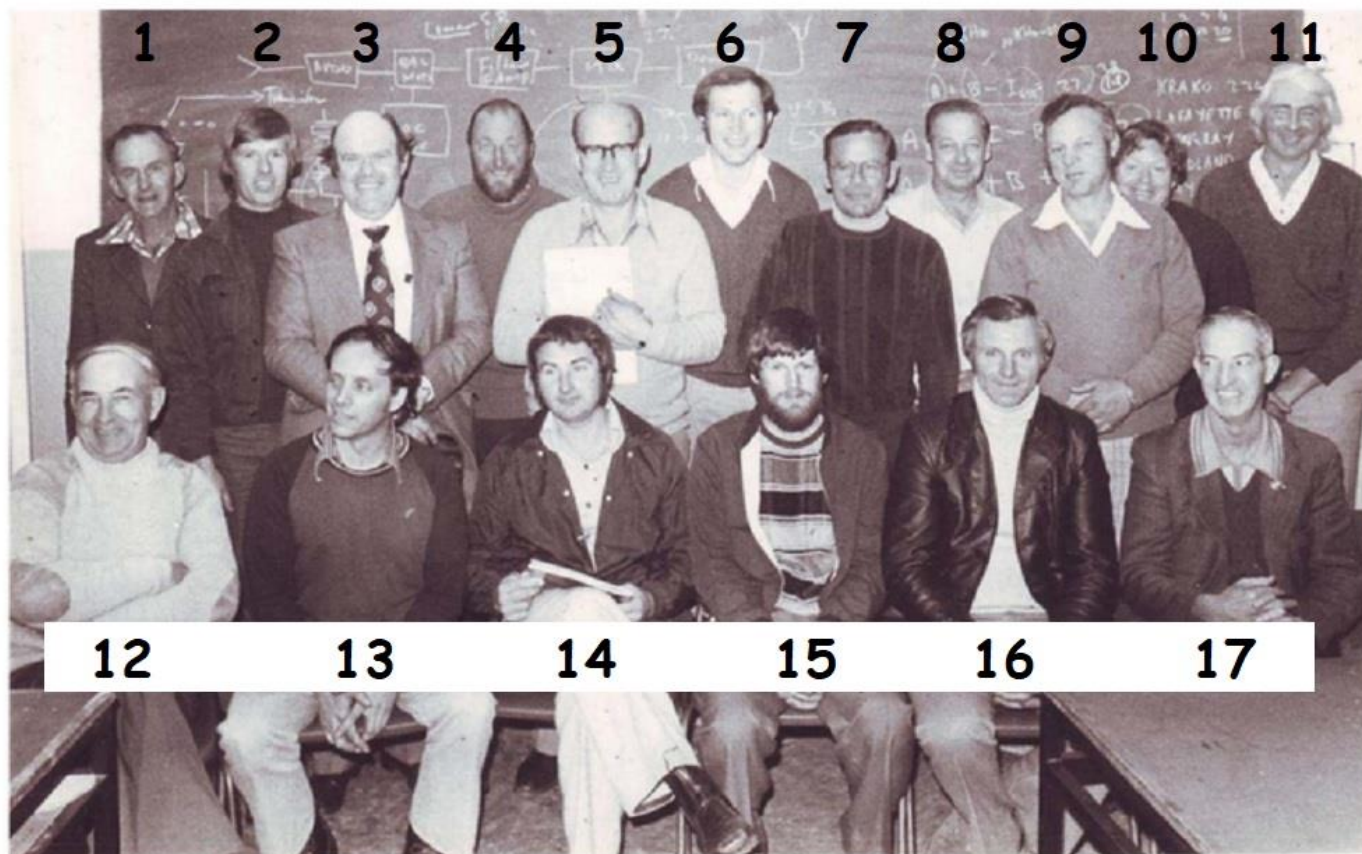


Can you help with photo ID?

Craig VK3KG and Colin VK3NCC are continuing to archive the BARG Newsletters and photographs.

This is a picture from the class that Brian VK3ZBS ran at Lake Bolac 1978.

We have old callsigns but need names and any information about the individuals.



1978 Group at Lake Bolac High School Classes

1. Digger VK3NDJ - VK3BFF
2. Harry Hekkema VK3KGL - VK3AHH
3. ??? VK3NDH
4. Woody Woodburn VK3AGD
5. Oliver VK3AEU
6. Peter VK3AQV
7. Jim Hinton VK3NTD – VK3ZML – VK3KJH – VK3XS
8. ??? VK3NEK

9. ??? VK3NLI
10. Laurie Moss VK3NDL - VK3DLO
11. ??? VK3NDZ
12. ??? VK3NCF
13. ??? VK3NMZ
14. ??? VK3KN
15. ??? VK3NDN
16. ??? VK3NPV
17. ??? VK3NQZ



Moorabbin and District Radio Club.
VK3APC

HAMFEST 2023

*****New Location*****

10AM Saturday 6th May, 2023

Location – Kingston City Hall Cnr Nepean Hwy & South Rd Moorabbin
Melways Reference 77 D4



- * GREAT VENUE
- * PLENTY OF SPACE
- * MELBOURNES BIGGEST
- * MAJOR AND MINOR DOOR PRIZES

The Moorabbin & District Radio Club have much pleasure in inviting you to participate in
Snacks and hot food will be available.
Talk in via 147.075Mhz 2m VK3RMK

PRIZE DRAWS: Every entry ticket goes into the draw & additional tickets on sale
SALES: NEW - Importers and suppliers of amateur equipment & accessories.
SALES: USED - Preloved ham gear & accessories, PC's & bits & pieces

All inside and undercover. Demonstrations of Radio equipment and accessories.

ENTRY ONLY \$8.00
(Doors Open 10am – entry tickets on sale prior)
(INCLUDES FREE DRAW IN THE MAJOR DOOR PRIZE)

Tables available at \$20 each, (1.8m long)

Table bookings online only get in early and secure!
<https://mdrc.org.au/mdrc-hamfest/>

Lee Moyle, VK3GK. Tel: Mobile 0429810101
Graeme Lewis, VK3GL. Tel: Mobile 0418171601



Webpage - www.mdrc.org.au

2023 MDRC Hamfest Information



SOS Radio Week, What is it?

SOS Radio Week is one month of fun, an opportunity for amateur radio operators to celebrate the work of the [Royal National Lifeboat Institution](#) (RNLI), the [National Coastwatch Institution](#) (NCI), members of the [National Inshore Lifeboat Association](#) (NILA) and other independent lifeboat and rescue organisations around the coasts of the British Isles (UK, Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man). In doing so we aim to raise as much awareness for them as we can; near, far and wide.

SOS Radio Week takes place during the month of May every year to coincide with the [Royal National Lifeboat Institute's](#) (RNLI's) own [Mayday](#) fund-raising event.

It starts at 00:00 on the 1st May and ends at 23:59 on the 31st May

Both the RNLI and NCI are funded 100% by voluntary donations, many of the independent lifeboat and rescue organisations are too.

SOS Radio Week Registered stations



Any licensed Amateur Radio operator, or Amateur Radio club, based in the British Isles can [register](#) to run an official SOS Radio Week station. All you need to do is let us know what callsign you will be using during the event, together with your location, and you will become an official [Registered SOS Radio Week Station](#), promoting the work of the RNLI, the NCI and independent lifeboat and rescue organisations throughout the event.



VKS-737 Radio Network Raffle

VKS-737 & HF-Tel

Divisions of the Australian National 4WD Radio Network Inc.



Established 1993

ABN 92 486 729 762

PO Box 2101
Elizabeth Park, SA. 5113

www.vks737.radio

Telephone: (08) 7325 2600
email: info@vks737.on.net



VKS-737 Radio Network Raffle



First Prize:

Codan Explorer Package comprising an Envoy X1 Radio and 3040 Auto-Tune Antenna. Valued at \$5654.00
Generously donated by Codan Radio Communications.



Codan Envoy Radio



Codan 3040 Antenna

Second Prize:

Minelab Equinox 600 Metal Detector. Valued at \$1099.00
Generously donated by Minelab.

Third Prize:

Minelab Vanquish 540 Metal Detector. Valued at \$629.00
Generously donated by Minelab.



Minelab Metal Detector

3,000 numbered tickets @ \$5.00 to be drawn 17:30 Friday 16th June 2023 at VKS-737 Head Office.

Tickets are available from VKS-737 Head Office or VKS-737 Website

Please Note: Ticket Orders must be received no later than Friday 9th June 2023

Proceeds are to be applied to the VKS-737 Radio Network to provide better communications services for our subscribers, and in times of emergencies by all outback and remote area travellers.





The St George Amateur Radio Society Inc

The Don Edwards Memorial Slow Morse Contest 2023

In recognition of Don, the St. George Amateur Radio Society will be holding the "Don Edwards Memorial slow Morse contest" on the weekend of the 20th and 21st of May 2023.

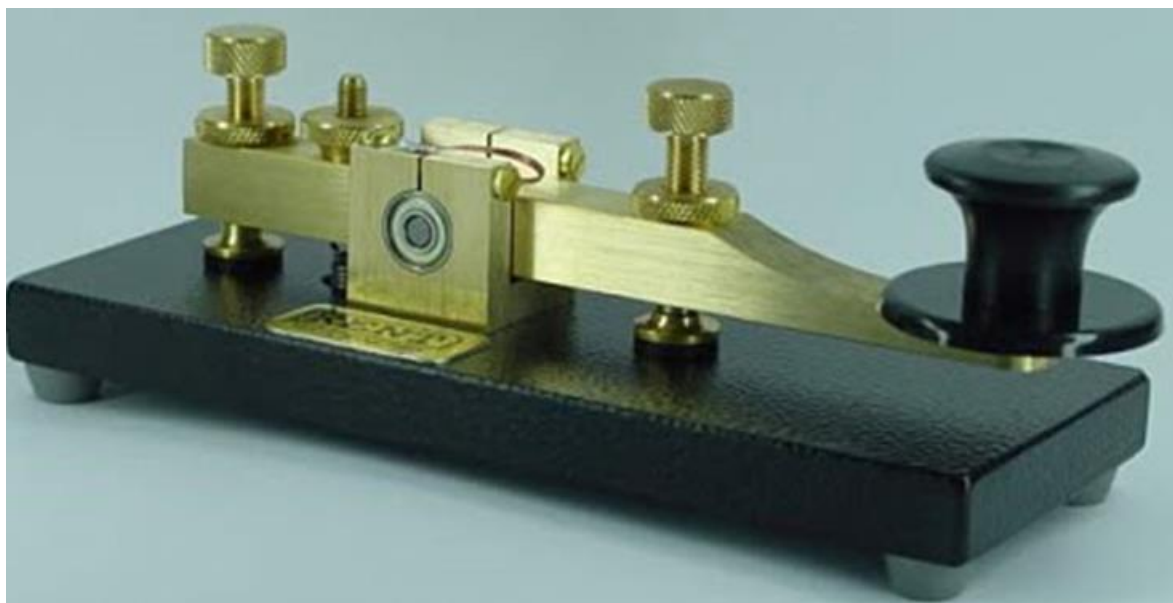
The contest will be in two sections, 80 metres on the Saturday evening from 6pm to 9pm (0800 - 1100 UTC) and 40 metres on the Sunday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm (0300 - 0600 UTC). Amateurs can enter either or both sessions. The contest will be open to all VK and ZL amateurs.

Many amateurs have rarely or never used Morse code since they passed their exam or never needed to learn Morse code for their licences. This contest is to encourage inexperienced or rusty operators to try their hand or fist at Morse. For this reason, the contest will be a "Slow Morse contest" with a speed limit of 10 words per minute, no keyboards or screens - all sent by hand and received by ear.

To encourage those amateurs who never sat for or passed a Morse exam for their licence, they will be able to claim an extra 2 points per session. For more information and contest rules can be found here.

Location In your shack or out in the field

www.sgars.org



Harry Angel Memorial 80m Sprint

Contest Managers:

Dr. Kevin Johnston VK4UH, Glenn Mathison
VK4GMI & Charlie Strong VK4YZ (SK)

Harry Angel Sprint Manager

c/- Redcliffe and District Radio Club

PO Box 20, Woody Point. Qld 4019

Contest Introduction:

The Harry Angel Sprint is an annual 80m contest event, first established in 1999, to commemorate the life of Harry Angel VK4HA who at the time of his becoming a Silent Key was the oldest licensed amateur in Australia.

The duration of the contest is 106 minutes one minute for each year of Harry's life.

The "HA" is held on or around the first Saturday in May each year and is open to all grades of licence holder. This contest is structured to suit both seasoned contesters and operators new to contesting.

Place winners in the Harry Angel Contest are eligible to claim points for the WIA Contest Champion (Peter Brown) Trophy.

Aim of the Contest:

The aim of the competition is to make as many contacts as possible in the allotted time. Each station may be worked on one occasion only per mode.

The contest is open to all amateurs licensed to use 80m, including individual operators and stations representing radio clubs and societies.



Magazine Reviews

Silicon Chip April 2023 Review

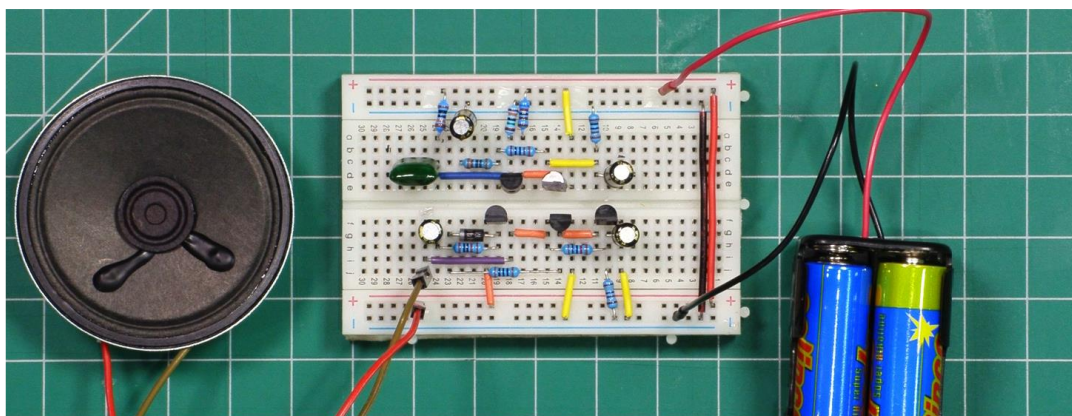
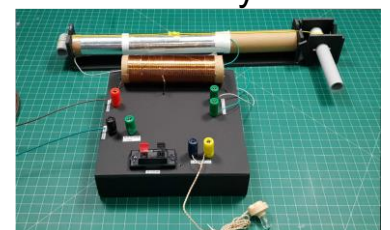
- P16 Underground Communications. Looks at systems designed challenge the soil when communicating between people underground and above ground. From mining to road and rail systems.
- P26 500W Class-D Mono Amplifier. MonoBlock Class-D Amplifier on a budget. Comprises two prebuilt modules that provide a serious amount of audio power without the “high fidelity” of the more expensive amplifiers.
- P40 Wideband Fuel Mixture Display Part 1. Using Bosch’s latest wideband oxygen sensor, measure and display your engine range of air/fuel ratios. With Bluetooth connectivity and the ability to monitor the various parameters associated with such a comprehensive device.
- P54 Review: T48 Universal Programmer. The XGecu T48 Universal programmer. An upgrade of the TL866II, it comes with an array of adapters for most popular programmable devices.
- P60 Automated Test Bench. Swiss Army Knife, an automated test bench. A handy device providing test voltages, signals and resistances. It can provide automated tests and input and output records for analysis.
- P72 Silicon Chirp – the pet cricket. An electronic cricket with light sensor to make it chirp in the dark if the need arises.
- P80 Using TestController. A free desktop application that interfaces with a number of testing modules to provide computer control and monitoring.
- P84 Serviceman’s Log. Faulty Kits, rain detector, intercom and ant colony, converting a torch to Lipo, Miele clothes dryer, three blind mice and an air conditioner.
- P94 Vintage Radio: Browning-Drake 6A, A 1927 receiver with separate loudspeaker horn. The design of the “regenaformer” to over come unwanted capacitive coupling between coil windings.
- P102 Circuit Notebook. Lithium battery & case for Uno with touchscreen, Three-phase sinewave generator, Graph makes using the Q Meter easier, Low-cost cell under-voltage protection, ESP32-based millisecond clock.



Model 6-A

DIYODE April 2023 Review

- P8 ChatGPT for Makers. Dive deep into how ChatGPT and other next-generation AI tools can accelerate your understanding of electronics, and find the gaps for education.
- P24 Sport Meets Art. Turn your sports gear into illuminated wall art. Instead of hiding the snow skis away in storage after the snow season, Miloš put his skis on display with WiFi-controlled LED lighting effects to remind him of the snow season all year round.
- P31 Circuit Mess STEM Kits New & Reviewed: Modern coding learning partners with a traditional electronics learning kit concept in this release from a Croatian startup.
- P36 Ultrasonic Microphone. Pick up sounds above human hearing range and learn a little about the heterodyne principle along the way.
- P49 The Classroom: A close look at analog panel meters and how to use them in your next project.
- P62 New Heights High Altitude Weather Balloon Part 2: An update from high school student, Nolan, about getting his STEM project into space.
- P68 Crystal Radio Fundamentals Part 2: It's not 'free energy', but you can listen to radio with no batteries.
- P72 Mini Build: Making a Variable Capacitor. Making a variable capacitor with readily available household products.
- P76 Mini Build: Making Coupled Coils. Making simple coupled RF coils for your receivers.
- P81 Mini Build: Making with Direct-coupled Tapped Coil
- P84 Mini Build: FM Version Crystal Set.
- P88 Kids' Basics Amplified Antics, An Alternative Amplifier Part 2 Following on from last month's theory and simple build with a more complex but much better amplifier.



Lo-Key MARCH 2023 Review

- P1 Contents
- P4 President's Notes
- P6 Club News. 10-year, 20 Year and 30 Year Club PLUS NEW MEMBERS LIST.
- P8 QRP Hours Contest Rules – 80m. 8th April 2023
- P11 The Club Callsign: VK5WAT. The official club callsign can be used with permission of the club secretary.
- P12 Using Chat GPT for QRP questions. Peter Parker, VK3YE. Tips on successful soldering. First amateur radio projects for beginners.
- P16 QRPer's All-Band Listening Guide. Steve Rawlings G4ALG
- P20 FT-818 Modifications. Josh Masiliana VK2MES. BHI NEDSP-1901 DSP Noise Cancellation, 817i/iPad FT817/818 iPad Interface, Windchamp Power Pole Adapter.
- P24 Member Classifieds. Kenwood TS-440SAT, TenTec 539 Argonaut VI.
- P25 Chris-Crossword.
- Back Page. G4ALG's proposed All-Band Listening Guide Diagram.



There are available on the BARG website scanned copies of old BARG Newsletters.
<https://www.barg.org.au/>

Colin VK3NCC with the copies supplied by Craig VK3KG has been scanning them and adding to the collection on the website.
Great job.....



MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

To keep the quality of this newsletter!



- If you have a project, antenna, vehicle installation, some club or amateur radio history or somewhere you have operated amateur radio.
- Have you bought a bit of gear or accessory that you have used and think it would be interesting for others to know about.
- If you go bush to operate.
- Tell us about it!!!!!!!
- Some pictures and a simple bit of text telling about your endeavours is all we need.
- If you don't think your journalistic talents are lacking, like most of us, then apply pen to paper and in point form write what you want to say. Some massaging from the editor will make your article readable.

No matter how small or big, contributions gratefully accepted. tomvk3dmk@gmail.com